



For Immediate Release
August 10, 1999

U.S. EPA Releases New Version of Air Quality Modeling System

Ann Brown, ORD Public Affairs, (919) 541-7818

Research Triangle Park, NC.....The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a new version of its air quality modeling system, Models-3/CMAQ (Version 3.0), that enhances its user interface capabilities and improves installation and operating procedures.

Models-3/CMAQ, initially released in June 1998, is a computer-based modeling system that can simulate the simultaneous transport of multiple pollutants across large geographic regions. The modeling system is useful to states and other government agencies for making regulatory decisions on air quality.

The EPA is working closely with users to refine Models-3 and address their needs, says Frank Schiermeier, Director of the Atmospheric Modeling Division of the EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory in Research Triangle Park, NC, that developed the modeling system. A special helpdesk has been developed to provide assistance with installing and operating the system. The telephone number is (919) 541-0157.

The Models-3 computational framework contains pre-installed scientific models, which are components of the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system, and facilitates passing data between these models. The framework uses meteorological model output and includes emissions and chemical transport models. The framework also encompasses various statistical, graphical and visualization tools to assist in analysis of input data and model estimates.

Improvements are being made available to the framework to enable users to operate Models-3 on a variety of workstations. Changes have been made for Models-3 to work on upgraded versions of SUN workstations (OS: Solaris 2.6); changes which support running Models-3 on workstations of some other manufacturers will be available later this year. The CMAQ air quality model will execute on multiple computing platforms.

The revised CMAQ also can be used independently of the Models-3 computational framework, providing more flexibility for advanced applications. While the framework provides "click and play" features that make it user-friendly, a procedure is now available for users to bypass these features and run CMAQ outside the Models-3 framework.

Release of the revised Models-3 framework coincides with release of its science documentation. The user manual, tutorial, science documentation, and information on obtaining the Models-3 program are available on the Models-3 web site: www.epa.gov/asmdnerl/models3. The modeling system is being made available by the EPA without charge; however, licenses for Orbix, SAS, and ArcInfo on each computer system are necessary before Models-3 can be fully implemented.

###